

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rapp School District #50

other names/site number 139-4210-0027

2. Location

street & number S2, E2, SE4, SE4, SE4, S13, T16, R13E Grant Township ☐ not for publication

city or town Osage City ☒ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Osage code 139 zip code 66525

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Shultz, D- SHPO June 2, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Rapp School
Name of Property

Osage County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1929-1945

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Leighty Brothers; Charles J. and
Robert E.; builders

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Rapp School (c. 1929) is located in Grant Township five miles northwest of Osage City, Osage County, Kansas (pop. 2,689) on S2, E2, SE4, SE4, S.13, T.16, R.13E. The one story, brick building sits on a concrete foundation and is surmounted by a hipped roof. A wooden, gable roof bell tower is centered on the front facade. A finished basement stands underneath the building. The school has a southern facade orientation and measures approximately forty feet east to west and thirty-six feet north to south.

The Rapp School maintains a high degree of architectural integrity as an example of a one room, brick, school house. The building stands on a three hundred by two-hundred and sixty-six foot lot, facing south onto Highway 56. The Rapp Cemetery adjoins the grounds to the north and is separated by a two-pipe fence and a row of cedar trees. A gravel road runs along the east boundary of the school grounds. The western boundary is defined with cedar trees and a pipe fence. A two-door outhouse is located near the fence on the north lawn. Non-extant resources include another outhouse and a small horse barn.

The present Rapp School and the earlier 1871 wooden school house were both an integral part of Rapp village. Although the village was never incorporated, it nevertheless had all the amenities of a small community. Rapp village was located along the Missouri-Pacific railroad, a couple of miles east and south of the school house. The community consisted of several houses, a railroad crossing/ produce station, cattle pens, general store and lumber yard. The only community or commercial building left of the Rapp community is the school house. Four extant houses stand as residences near the railroad crossing.

The overall rectangular form of the school is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, hipped roof. A wooden, gable roof bell tower rises from the center of the south facade. The school is constructed of brick. A finished basement stands underneath the building.

A wooden door with a nine light window set in the upper portion of the door pierces the south facade and is surmounted by an eight light transom. A limestone lintel over the door transom is carved with "1872 RAPP SCHOOL 1929 DIST. NO. 50." Two 6/1 double hung sash windows pierce the elevation on either side of the door. A wooden, gable roof bell tower rises from the centered of the front facade. Every elevation on the bell tower is pierced by an arched vent. Ten concrete steps with brick abutments capped with concrete lead up to the door. Two basement windows pierce the facade on either side of the steps.

The west elevation is pierced by four three foot windows placed high on the wall. Two windows pierce the basement. A brick chimney is located in the northern bay of the west elevation. A secondary entrance and two basement windows are located on the east elevation. Nine 6/1 double hung sash windows and three basement windows pierce the north elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The Rapp School (c. 1929) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with education in Osage County, Kansas and for its architectural significance as a one room schoolhouse. The present Rapp School served the Osage County School District Number 50 from its completion in 1929 until July 1962, when consolidation forced its closure. In 1962, the building was deeded to the Grant Township Board of Trustees for community use. The building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and is currently used as a community building and museum.

The school stands on a three hundred by two-hundred and sixty-six foot lot, facing south onto Highway 56. Before the 1930s the state highway did not go by the school and was located about one mile south near the Missouri Pacific railroad. Highway 56, previously called Highway 50N, relocated to go by the school and follows The Santa Fe Trail. The Rapp Cemetery adjoins the grounds on the north, and is separated from the school grounds by a two-pipe fence and a row of cedar trees. A gravel road runs along the east boundary of the school grounds. The west boundary consists of cedar trees, pipe fence, and beyond those a brome pasture. A two door outhouse is located near the fence of the north lawn. Non-extant resources include another outhouse and a small horse barn.

The present Rapp School and the earlier 1871 wooden school house, located five miles west of Osage City, were both an integral part of Rapp village. Although the village was never incorporated, it nevertheless had all the amenities of a small community. Rapp village was located along the Missouri-Pacific railroad, a couple of miles east and south of the school house.

The rural community consisted of an unincorporated village of about a dozen houses, a railroad crossing/ produce station, a general store, a lumberyard, blacksmith shop and stockyard. The community and the schoolhouse was named after C. J. Rapp, who owned a large amount of land in the area. The only community or commercial building left of the Rapp community is the school house. Four extant houses stand as residences near the railroad crossing.

School District 50 was organized in 1870. "Pursuance to notice given by County Supt. of schools in Osage County, State of Kansas, was held in Dist 50, the 10th day of June 1870, A. D. for the purpose of organizing said School District and also to vote support a common school in said District. The meeting was duly organized by a chairman John A. Moberg was elected director, C. J. Rapp treasurer, and James Cain, Clerk." ("Rapp EHU Centennial")

In February 1871, a special meeting was called to decide on the type of school house building. The original Rapp school house was constructed of clapboard and located west of the current school house. The building was one story high and twenty-six feet long and eighteen feet wide with a 1/2 pitch roof. The job was awarded to August and Swan Bloom for \$175, to be finished by April 1, 1871. James Cain was to furnish the wood at \$1.25 per cord, for eight cords, and to be stove length.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

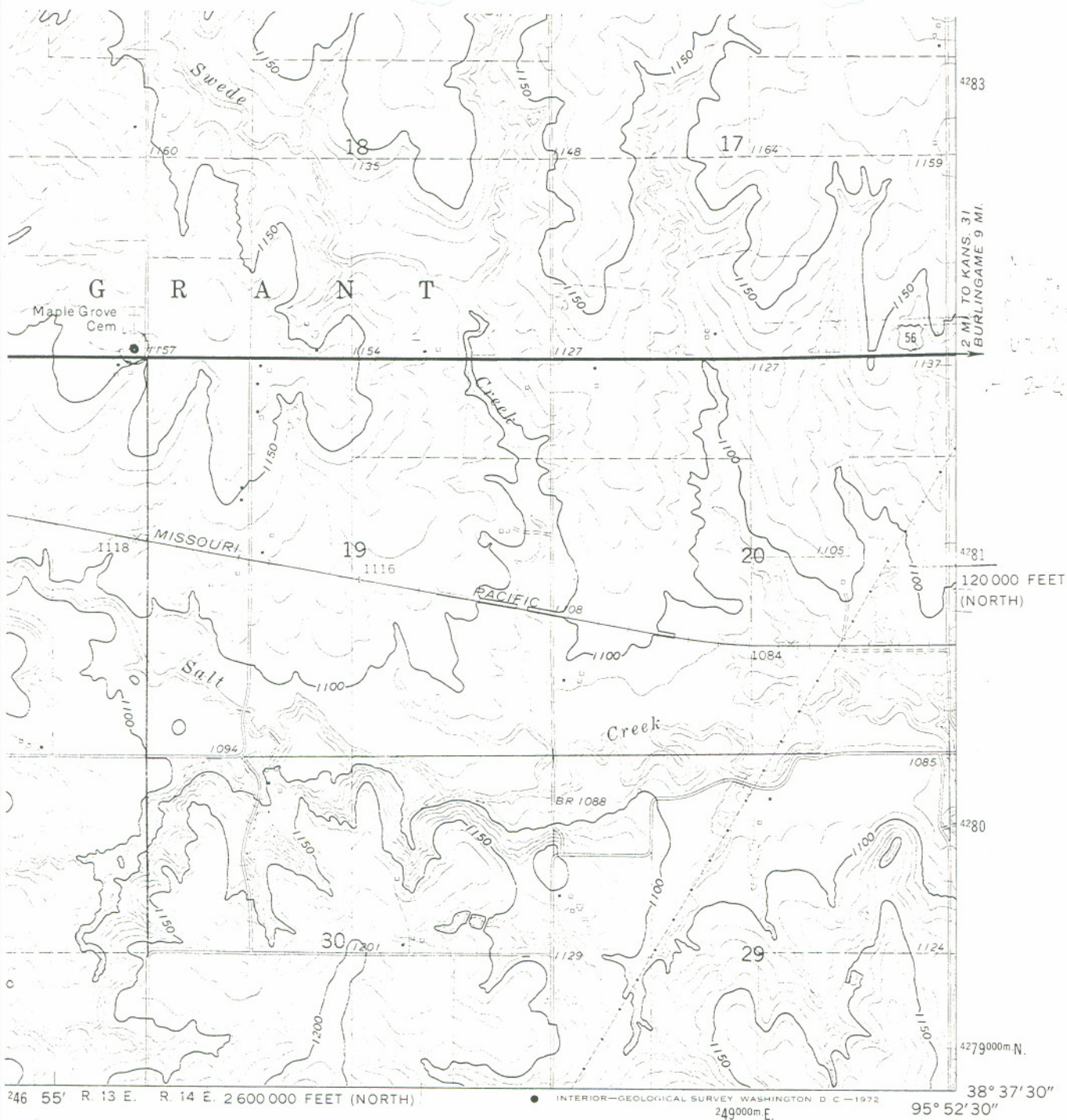
Section number 8 Page 3

The length of the school year was customarily September through April, grades one through eight. Absences because of farm work caused many to attend Rapp School until their 20s. County wide standardized achievement examinations given at the end of the eighth grade were used to assess overall student learning. Examinations were given by the Osage County Superintendent of Schools.

The building retains all of its original furnishings: bell rope and bell, piano, 42 desks, recitation desk, teacher's desk, cloak hooks, lunch cupboards, and wall maps. Some curricular material is also extant: counting sticks, books, dual purpose sand table. The library contains the teacher's manuals and student textbooks as they were left when the school ceased to operate July 1962. Nearly all of the textbooks used at Rapp were published by the Kansas State Printer. Representative examples of curricular material include Four Centuries in Kansas by Bliss Isey and W. M. Richards (1937); Champion Arithmetics by Joseph C. Brown, Helen Cook Mirick, J. Freeman, Guy and Albert C. Eldredge (1937); Bobbs-Merrill Readers by Clara B. and Edna D. Baker (1926); Fundamentals of Citizenship by G. L. Blough and C. H. McClure (1945).

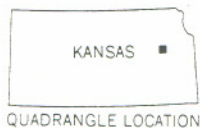
Rapp School exemplifies the prototypical, one room, country school house in form and design. The one story, brick, hipped roof school is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, hipped roof. A wooden, gable roof bell tower rises from the center of the south facade. The school is constructed of brick. A finished basement stands underneath the building. This brick school house with a bell tower is typical of the rural schoolhouses constructed in Osage County and Kansas between 1920 and 1930.

School was discontinued 1 July 1962. The building was used as a meeting hall by the Rapp Extension Homemakers Unit and vacation Bible School until 1980. Until a few years ago it had been used as a voting place for the township, meeting place for community groups and picnics. The school house now functions as a museum.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	—————	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	=====
Secondary highway, hard surface	—————	Unimproved road	=====
Interstate Route	⬢	U. S. Route	⬢
		State Route	⬢



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

MILLER, KANS.

N3837.5—W9552.5/7.5

1971

AMS 6861 III NW—SERIES V878

(OSAGE CITY SE)
6861 III SE